



Volume 23

An ARCEC Monthly Publication

August 2014

Counterpoise Editor - Sue Robins AF6LJ

ARRL National Centennial Convention

By Sue Robins AF6LJ, Pictures by Pat Bunsold WA6MHZ

Club President Pat Bunsold WA6MHZ made the trip back to Hartford Connecticut for the ARRL Centennial Convention this year. Pat gave his presentation Collecting and Restoring Radios of the Past, which was well received. Pat chronicled his trip and here are a few highlights from his presentation given at our August Meeting.

Pat spent time at ARRL Headquarters, he took the tour and spent time in the ARRL lab. Upon his arrival he was issued his Lab coat, sure looks at home in that lab coat in the ARRL Lab. While Pat was there he spent some time working on a Heath HW-101 that belonged to one of the Lab staff.

Below Pat can be seen with the staff posing for a photo or two. The HW-101 can be seen in the foreground, no doubt in capable hands.



ARRL Headquarters



ARCEC Repeater Frequencies

2 Meter Repeater	220 MHz Repeater	440 MHz Repeater
TX 146.475	TX 222.480	TX 440.900
RX 147.420	RX 224.080	RX 445.900
Offset .945	Offset 1.6	Offset 5.00
PL 107.2	PL 107.2	PL 107.2





Pat also paid a visit to WIAW While he was there he was able to get in some quality operating time at one of the many stations set up for visitors to use. Pat can be seen here working RTTY. There are several stations set up for use including at least one boat anchor station.



Club Picnic

The Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon will be holding its annual club picnic at Nancy Jane Park in Crest on September 7th beginning at 11:00 AM The picnic is a pot luck event, hamburgers, and hot dogs will be provided along with soda, bring your favorite dish and come enjoy fresh air, and sunshine with your fellow club members. Nancy Jane Park is located at; 120 N. Park Dr. El Cajon, CA. For directions visit and other information;

co.san-diego.ca.us/parks/picnic/nancyjane.html

See our website for details. Wa6bgs.us

Hope to see you there *****



The convention location can be seen at the top right picture, much activity on the convention floor and in the bottom picture you can see the flea market being set up. Wish I had been there, there is some good test equipment for sale.



And Pat is ready to check QSL cards for prospective DXCC awardees. And below you can see who is pleased to see Papa return from his trip, that cat is going to want some serious petting.



The San Diego Morse Code Practice Group

Mark Wardwell KB6PJU has been running a code practice group on the WA6BGS repeater. The code practice Group meets at 7:00 PM Pacific time on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

The Forked Devil

By Joe – W6VMX



A while back, oh maybe 12 months ago, I picked up a Diamond S1 bi-directional mast bracket. At the time I had only a vague idea on what I might want to do with it, but it looked like it might lend itself to a number of installations. Recently I finally decided what direction I wanted to go with it. My VHF/UHF antennas I had up until that point consisted of a Diamond x50a dual band 2 meter/70 cm antenna and a Diamond A144S5 2 meter yagi. Both have provided excellent operation and I had no thoughts of removing them from service. So, I decided that adding two more antennas to that mast would be in order.

I had recently obtained a Tram 1494 1.25 meter to use with my Wouxun dual band HT, and also I have had another of the A144S5 yagi's on hand for awhile too. What I had in mind was to build a U shaped mounting assembly that would be 4' long horizontally with a 3' vertical on each end. The verticals would have caps to keep out water. It would be made from 1 1/2" schedule 40 PVC and would end up mounted to the very top of the existing antenna mast I was currently using.

As things worked out, my plans took a different route than I had wanted due to time and labor constraints. The mounting assembly went together just how I had planned, and to facilitate antenna mounting, I mounted the assembly on my CCTV system mast which allowed for a near ground level working location. My son Eric (KK6NRU) helped me out and in short order we had the yagi and the 220 mhz mounted on one of the verticals. As the yagi usually would mount onto a maximum of 1.25" diameter pole, I had to figure out how to mount it onto a 2" pole. What we did was to

carefully mark the U bolt location, and drill appropriate holes into the 2" pole for the U bolt to pass through. It all worked out very nicely, with plenty of space between the antennas on the vertical and lots of room between the verticals too.

We had planned to lower the existing antennas so that they could be removed from the mast they would currently on, and remounted onto the new U assembly. What actually ended up happening was that after some thought and review, I decided that I would leave the existing antennas in their current positions and mount the U assembly with the new antennas just below them on the mast. With Eric on the roof, I handed him the U assembly which he easily mounted onto the mast using the S1 bracket, and once tightened we then pointed the yagis towards the ENE direction for now. One yagi is mounted vertical (the existing one already on the mast) and the other is mounted horizontal so I can try out some 2 meter SSB DXing in the future. The 220 mhz appears to be working extremely well, even on 2 meters with the HT.

If anyone is interested in specific construction details, please feel free to contact me via email and I would be happy to help out with any questions you might have. See my QRZ.COM page for more photos and my email address there. Good DXing and 73 all.



Editor's Notes

By Sue Robins AF6LJ

The ARRL Southwestern convention is just around the corner, I attended the last ARRL convention that was held here in 2009, and enjoyed it very much. I attended several seminars hung out in the exhibit hall and met several hams that I had talked to ether on the air or though QRZ. I spent some money at the flea market, and really enjoyed myself. This year I registered early and play on attending even more seminars and covering the convention for Counterpoise.

The ARCEC picnic is also coming up the first Sunday in September, another fun event where one can enjoy the fellowship of club members and take in the clean air and sunshine. This year it is in Crest a nice peaceful community in the San Diego County foothills. Crest is right at the beginning of what I consider to be some of the best places to live in the county. I tend to like living in the "sticks" I did my share of that growing up living in central Oregon where the nearest "large city" was 17 miles away and a walk to the mail box was nearly a 4 mile round trip. It was a very different world then, I won't make a comparison between then and now, nor will I compare and contrast rural life against city life. Each has their own merits and their own pitfalls. I do have to say that the S-2 daytime noise level on 40 meters while listening on a newly built SB-301 connected to a 450' long wire 20' in the air had a great deal of charm, city life does have its benefits.

That brings up to another subject near and dear to my heart, Boatanchors. I've always had a passion for older gear. When you get right down to it, there isn't a whole lot of difference in performance between a 45 year old Drake R-4C and the receiver in one of those modern Icoms or Kienwoods. Sure they have a lot of bells and whistles to reduce noise and tailor the audio to your liking, but I remain convinced that when it comes to "getting close to the signal", digging it out of the noise there isn't really a whole lot of difference. My first experience with a "real" ham band receiver was my SB-301, in its day it was a top preformer, you just had to spend a week and a half building it in the evenings after homework, and the dinner dishes were done. Sitting in storage

are a set of Heathkit Twins (SB-301, SB-401) waiting on parts as they come available. Those 2 will be a future project, and a way of getting in touch with my youth.

Meanwhile I have picked up a pair of Swans, a 350, and a 500CX, The 350 has become my weekend radio of choice, but still has an annoying receiver audio issue I need to deal with. The 500CX just needs a set of finals. It is interesting to compare and contrast the two radios. Swans of this vintage have wonderful audio when properly tuned and operated by an experienced operator.

The 500CX was a good find, in good shape, but showed its age a little. The 350 on the other hand was a unusual find, the radio looks like it was built last year instead of 1968, with the exception of the paint job on the cabinet, the inside is perfect, and the outside is in very good condition.



For more on the two Swans visit QRZ.com, head to the forums, then to the boat anchor and classic equipment forum and keyword search "So I bought A Swan 350" or "So I bought a Swan 500CX". There are plenty of pictures and as I always do the process of bringing these radios back to functionality is well documented.

If you have something you would like to see in Counterpoise send that content to counterpoise@wa6bgs.us You are what makes the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon, we wouldn't exist without you, the membership. Join us at our meetings and activities and become a part of the club.



The 2014 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention is to be held September 12-14 at the Four Points By Sheraton. For more information visit; <http://www.sandarc.net/>

Hope to see you there.

Club Shirts & Jackets

We have 2013 club shirts and jackets available at meetings and from the club website. Shirts are available sizes from small to XX large, this year's shirt has a pocket and as usual is green in color with the club logo in white. The cost is \$12.00 each. You can get a 2013 Field Day shirt or the standard club shirt, both styles of shirts have the club logo on the back and the left side.

Jackets are also available in sizes ranging from Medium to XX large. These are of the lined windbreaker style, with side pockets and they snap down the front. The cost is \$24.00 each.

We also have a number of shirts from 2012, these shirts are identical to the 2013 shirts without the pocket, and they are available in both the standard club shirt and the 2012 Field Day shirt. Sizes are limited to stock on hand.



The **AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF EL CAJON**^{Inc.}
WA6BGS

Post Office Box Fifty, El Cajon California 92022

Founded 1960 ~ Incorporated 1976

Please fill out this form and then see options at bottom for submitting to the club

Date of application: ___ / ___ / ___

Amount Paid: \$ _____ Cash Check Check # _____

Membership Type: Individual (\$20/year) Family* (\$35/year)

Membership Status: New Renewal Returning Member

Call Sign First Name _____ Last Name _____

If a previous member, what was your WAMO number?

ARRL Member: Yes No

License Class: Technician General Extra Other

Email Address (required) _____

Phone Number (optional) _____

**Use another sheet of paper to add Family members and please include the following information:*

First Name, Last Name, Call Sign (if any), License Class, Wamo Number (if any), & Email Address.

Submitting this form:

To submit this form, you can mail it to:

**Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon
P.O. Box 50
El Cajon, CA 92022**

-OR-

Bring it to the next club meeting on the second Thursday of each month. You can find the date and location by getting online at www.wa6bgs.us which is the club website. Check it out for the most current information regarding the club.

Cash Payments - Get a receipt from the Club Treasurer. Please make all checks payable to AMATEUR RADIO CLUB of EL CAJON, Incorporated. Receipts for payments by check will be sent by email or regular mail by the Club Treasurer.

Members with an FCC Call Sign are full members with voting privileges. Members without an FCC Call Sign are Associate members without voting privileges.

YOUR DUES ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE: Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon, Inc. Is a 501 C 7 Corporation. Donations are NOT tax deductible.

Email address and phone number are to allow club officers to contact members regarding club business and information of interest.

JEB